

Whereas, Clarence R. Smith, Jr. must be commended for his years of dedicated service to his friends and his community; and

Whereas, Clarence R. Smith, Jr. is a devoted husband, father, and grandfather;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Clarence R. Smith, Jr. as he celebrates his 75th Birthday.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. HOGAN

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael J. Hogan whose selfless service and contributions to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Holy Eucharist Parish in Tabernacle, New Jersey are worthy of recognition.

Mr. Hogan, one of ten children, was born in 1938 in New York. He began serving those in need during his high school and college years through the St. Vincent de Paul Society of his parish.

Mike and his wife, Elizabeth, have three children and one grandchild. He has always been a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He has a great passion for and dedication to children which is demonstrated through his generous volunteer hours as guest lecturer of astronomy in grammar schools through the Star Lab program, and his volunteer work as a teacher of religious education classes.

Involved in the construction of the St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry, Mike volunteers as its Coordinator, working with the USDA Food Bank to ensure that there is an adequate food supply at all times. When there is a need in the community, Mr. Hogan ensures that food and other services are given with dignity and respect. He provides a critical blend of self-help encouragement with monetary assistance.

As Regional Coordinator of the NJ Shares Program, Mike acts as liaison between utility companies and statewide energy assistance funds. As Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Salt and Light Company, Inc., Mike helps to provide affordable housing to low-income individuals and families in Burlington County.

As one of the most valued, dependable and respected volunteers of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington County, Mike is heading up the Master Gardener Donation Garden in which vegetables will be grown for donation to local food banks.

As you see, Mike Hogan is a volunteer without equal in our area, and it is with gratitude and respect that I honor him today.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2658) making ap-

propriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004 and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to promote the continued work of the Congress and the Department of Defense to make sure our reserve troops are medically ready to deploy when called upon.

In meeting the global challenges of the post-cold-war era, our military reserve forces have become more important than ever. In fact the role of the Reserve and National Guard in the total force has transformed over the past decade from manpower replacements to essential operators in the daily missions of our armed forces. This is now more apparent than ever as over 200,000 Reservists are serving on active duty related to our military action in Iraq, in peacekeeping and counter-terrorism operations around the globe, and domestic security operations here at home. The increased use of the reserve component seems likely only to increase given our current military force structure and current and future obligations around the world.

Given this trend, the ability for reserve units to timely deploy when called upon is critical. To be effective, our reserve troops need to be medically ready and able to perform their mission. Members not able to deploy when called up limit the ability of units to perform, cause delay, and demand costly changes in operation plans.

The medical and dental readiness of the reserve components has continually been an issue of concern for the Department of Defense. According to the U.S. Army Medical Command, a "significant number" of Army Reservists could not be deployed during mobilization for Persian Gulf War in 1990-91 due to medical reasons. Further, a study by the Uniformed Services University found that an estimated 25 percent of Army Reservists mobilized in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, were not deployable due to dental problems.

Recently, the government accounting office completed a report on the ability of the Army Reserve to meet medical and dental readiness requirements, as directed by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY02.

The GAO found that periodic physical and dental exams for early-deploying reservists are valuable for the Army and that the Army should seek to consistently meet the statutory requirements for monitoring the medical and dental status of Army Reservists.

However, the GAO report only reaffirmed what the Army already knew, and starting in March 2001, the Army made a fundamental shift to ensure the readiness of its reserve forces. By coordinating and contracting with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the private sector, the Army is able to address readiness needs through an innovative, efficient, and cost-effective program called the Federal Strategic Health Alliance, or FEDS-HEAL.

The FEDS-HEAL program won the Hammer Award created by former Vice President Gore to recognize outstanding Federal organizations that significantly improve how the Government operates. The FEDS-HEAL program fixes the logistical problems that hampered the Army's ability to get Reservists into the limited number of Army medical treatment facilities for required exams and screenings.

FEDS-HEAL works with VA medical facilities, HHS Federal occupational health facilities, and over 2,000 approved private medical and dental providers throughout the Nation to get Reservists the attention they require nearby and in a timely manner. In addition, the FEDS-HEAL program office reviews and maintains records on individual Reservists, a factor that the GAO noted as key to success in efficiently fulfilling medical readiness requirements.

The problems in fulfilling readiness requirements are not unique to the Army Reserve, and the remedy pursued by the Army is applicable to other services. Noting the tested success of the FEDS-HEAL program within the Army Reserve, I encourage the other reserve components to thoroughly examine their ability to meet reserve readiness requirements and look to the FEDS-HEAL program as a model. In coordinating the entire reserve component into a reserve medical and dental readiness program, we may be able to reduce costs further through increased volume while boosting benefits to the DOD in terms of efficiency and to the VA and private providers through increased reimbursements.

The other major factor in attaining compliance with readiness requirements is adequate funding. I, and other Members of Congress, want to ensure that readiness is a top priority among the reserve components, and we will continue to work with the military to assess readiness needs.

Again, I commend the Army Reserve for implementing the FEDS-HEAL program and encourage expanded use of the program for other reserve forces to meet readiness requirements.

HONORING JIM REDMAN

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Redman, a man who has taught many people the meaning of courage, perseverance, and integrity.

Mr. Redman is an icon in Plant City, FL, which is located in my congressional district. He captained the high school football team there before attending my alma mater, the University of Florida, and studying business administration and law. After graduation he returned home and married his wife, Ruby Jean, a former Florida Strawberry Festival queen.

He founded and ran a successful law practice in Plant City before getting elected to the Florida House of Representatives. During his 12 years in the legislature, Jim fought public corruption and was named Legislator of the Year in 1975. He was a proud Democrat, and when local Republicans tried to get him to switch parties, he boasted that the Republicans were "too liberal" for him.

He also became very involved in the community and ultimately left the legislature to spend more time with his family. A section of State Road 39 in Plant City was named the James L. Redman Parkway in honor of his work in the legislature and his contributions to the community.

In 1978, at age 46, Jim found out he had cancer. Though doctors said he had likely less

than 2 years to live, he decided to fight it. And fight he did. I am pleased that today, at age 71, he still is fighting, despite enduring constant pain. Jim has refused to let his disease define him and instead has made his mark on the world and those around him.

Jim raised three children and now is a grandfather to nine grandchildren. He attends Lions Club lunches and meetings of the South Florida Baptist Hospital Board on which he serves. He also attends First Baptist Church of Plant City every Sunday, where he serves as a deacon. In addition, he gets to work at 7:30 every morning, and as he says, thanks "the good Lord for giving me another day."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to know Jim Redman and to represent him and his family in Congress. He continues to live his life with grace, dignity, courage, and the can-do attitude from which we all could learn.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MISSOURI POLICE OFFICER DEPUTY DANIEL JAMES PERCIVAL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the life of Deputy Daniel James Percival. His life, though tragically cut short, was enriched by numerous accomplishments in his career, and a loving, caring family.

Daniel served the Elbert County Sheriff's Department with dignity and passion. He was a big guy, towering over most at 6'8" tall with size 18 shoes and was fondly referred to as the "gentle giant." He was recruited for a career with the NFL, however Daniel wanted a career where he could serve and protect people and this is a true testament to the type of person that he was. On October 31, 1996, Daniel was shot and killed in the line of duty, at the young age of 21.

Daniel is survived by his loving parents, James and Sharon, and his sister Erin. It is my hopes that his family will always remember how passionate he was about his job and how diligently he served the people of Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you help me in recognizing and remembering Deputy Daniel James Percival, his accomplished career, and the remarkable family he leaves behind. God bless them.

RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE FIRE SAFETY ACT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the work of the Rhode Island General Assembly for passage of the Comprehensive Fire Safety Act and to urge other States to update their fire codes to modern standards. The Comprehensive Fire Safety Act, which was signed into law by Gov. Donald Carcieri on July 7, 2003, updates the Rhode Island Fire Code to reduce the chance of future fire-related tragedies. The legislation is the result of months of work by a 17-member legislation

commission, and it passed the State House and Senate unanimously last month.

This sweeping legislation is a timely, well thought out response to the West Warwick, RI, nightclub disaster that tragically killed 100 concertgoers on February 20, 2003. This was the deadliest fire in Rhode Island history and resulted from the use of pyrotechnics in a building that was not equipped with sprinklers or easily accessible exits.

The Comprehensive Fire Safety Act adopts the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) fire codes for new and existing buildings. This will end the State's grandfather clause that exempted older structures from meeting the State fire code. In addition, sprinklers will be required in more public buildings, a critical provision considering that the NFPA has no record of a fire killing more than two people in a completely sprinklered public building. In addition, the law bans most indoor pyrotechnics and expands the power of fire inspectors.

I hope other States will act to update their fire codes before similar tragedies strike. Enough lives have been lost in fires already. I also urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring H.R. 1824, the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2003. This legislation provides a tax credit to businesses that choose to install fire sprinklers, thus helping to offset the cost of State mandates and encouraging buildings to exceed local fire codes for the safety of the occupants.

While nothing can be done to bring back the victims from this horrific tragedy, the Rhode Island government has honored the victims of this disaster by working to prevent a similar situation from occurring in the future, and I applaud the State for its efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, July 8, 2003, a horrible tragedy occurred in my congressional district which caused me to miss the evening's votes, most noteworthy the Department of Defense Appropriation Act for 2004.

A gunman entered the Lockheed Martin plant in Meridian, MS, and conducted a thoughtless and sickening shooting spree, wounding nine people and killing five. I felt it important that I be with the victims of this senseless tragedy to offer support and comfort.

The families and friends of these victims are undergoing tremendous heartache and confusion as a result of this terrible act of violence. I would request the thoughts and prayers from the members of this body as we struggle to cope with this tragic incident.

While I regret missing these votes, my duties required that I be with my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 334, 335, and 336.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID BYRNES

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, as the Senior Marine in the Congress, I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel David Byrnes, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his retirement from active duty. Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes has served our Marine Corps and our great Nation for more than a quarter of a century.

A native of my home state, Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes grew up in Stoneybrook, New York. After graduating from Smithtown High School in 1977, a young David Byrnes followed in the footsteps of several great generations of New Yorkers and enlisted in the military. Like a few good New Yorkers before him he chose a challenging path—the Marine Corps. Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes' service as an enlisted aircraft technician took him from Memphis, Tennessee, to Beaufort, South Carolina, and eventually to Jacksonville, North Carolina.

In 1981, after these successful tours, Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes continued to excel and take on greater challenges, transferring to the reserves to attend Dowling College in Oakdale, New York, where he was awarded a Bachelors of Arts degree in 1982. By 1984 he had earned a commission as an Officer of Marines. From 1985 to 2000, Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes served in many of my colleagues' home states including South Carolina, New York, Kansas, Oregon, Virginia, and Louisiana. As a testament to his talent and versatility Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes earned three military occupational specialties during these tours, including Aircraft Maintenance Officer, Adjutant, and Legal Officer. He served with distinction and honor in all of these roles. In 2000, Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes was selected to attend the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, where he earned a Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. He immediately put this education to use serving in the J8 Forces Division on the Joint Staff, where he had responsibilities for the Secretary of Defense's Annual Report to the President and the Congress.

After his joint staff tour, Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes began his last tour of duty in the Marine Corps—serving in the Marine Corps' Office of Legislative Affairs. In this position he interacted with the Congress to explain Reserve Affairs to Congressional Members and their staffs. This was a position of enormous responsibility, made all the more so because of the ongoing War on Terror, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, which have all called for a large measure of devotion from our reserve forces. Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes has performed this highly challenging and difficult task flawlessly, always providing wise counsel and plain speaking. We have been fortunate to have such a capable Marine officer interact with us.

Throughout his career, Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes has demonstrated strong character, discerning wisdom, and a sincere, selfless sense of duty to his Marines. In recognition of his devotion to duty and exemplary performance Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes was awarded